It’s time for National Night Out in Dayton’s Bluff

National Night Out is August 4th. This is an event last year at Mounds Park United Methodist Church.

Celebrate National Night Out on Tuesday August 4, 2009 with your neighbors and friends. Some neighborhood groups and block clubs are planning to have a neighborhood barbecue, a potluck, an ice cream social, a band playing music, face painting, a volleyball game and many other activities that a group of neighbors can do together.

National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for and participation in local anti-crime programs, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, and send a message to criminals, letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. Join 30 million other neighbors at one of the events listed on this page.

There is no Community Meeting or Take A Hike in August.

New schools are opening in Dayton’s Bluff in September. Read about JOY Academy, Twin Cities Academy and JOY Academy High School on page 6.

If you want to make a difference in Dayton’s Bluff consider running for a seat on the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council. Registration opens on August 17. See details on this page.

August News

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Dayton’s Bluff District 4 Community Council
798 East 7th Street
Saint Paul, MN 55106

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Make a difference in Dayton’s Bluff

By Ed Lambert, Executive Director, Dayton’s Bluff Community Council

The Dayton’s Bluff Community Council is one of 17 such Councils in Saint Paul, and is the place to be if you want to have your voice heard on land-use, zoning, parks, housing, crime prevention, and overall community development and improvement in this community.

The Council will hold its annual elections for Board members October 19, 2009. Half the seats (9) are up for election/reelection, and one seat is presently vacant. The Board is organized into 4 sub districts, each with 4 representatives, and 2 at-large seats. We are actively seeking candidates for board positions. Interested residents and business owners (18 years and older) should file for these positions, at the District Council office 798 E. 7th St., between August 17 and September 21.

Dayton’s Bluff has become a much more diverse community than it was even just 10 years ago. The Council welcomes all newcomers and strongly encourages everyone to contact the office (651-772-2075), or the Council web site www.daytonsbluff.org, to learn more about how they can make a difference in Dayton’s Bluff. All are welcome as we seek board and organizational participants who fully reflect the people who live and/or operate businesses in Dayton’s Bluff.

The Council is the organization in Dayton’s Bluff, open to all residents.

“Community Council” continued on page 8.
Dayton’s Bluff Community Meeting

The next Community Meeting is Thursday, September 3rd (NO COMMUNITY MEETING IN AUGUST) from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the meeting room at the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council, 798 East 7th Street at the corner of 7th and Margaret. The Dayton’s Bluff Community Council holds its Community Meeting on the 1st Thursday of most months. The purpose of the meeting is to work with block clubs and neighborhood residents on property problems, criminal and nuisance behavior, code enforcement issues and any other neighborhood issues, concerns, and/or new ideas for improvement in Dayton’s Bluff.

Meet with the police

The Eastern District Police host their monthly meetings for community members at 722 Payne on the corner of Payne and Minnehaha Avenues. One is on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. and the other on the third Friday of each month at 9:30 a.m. In August the meetings are on the 19th and 21st. The meetings are intended as a time to listen to and address people’s concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

Next Take a Hike will be in October

Dayton’s Bluff Take a Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike is on Saturday, Oct. 3rd. We meet at 10:30 a.m. Mounds Park at Earl St. and Mounds Blvd.

We’ll hike from Mounds Park to the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary and then walk along the Bruce Vento Recreational Trail through Swede Hollow Park to the new East Side Heritage Park. Along the way we will share stories and learn some local history of the area. The hike is about four miles long with some moderately rough terrain. Transportation will be available to return to Mounds Park, if needed.

Join us and explore some of our parks and the regional trail. For more information contact Karin at 651-772-2075 or Karin@DaytonsBluff.org.

Get rid of a junk car

Budget Towing of Minnesota, Minnesota’s largest towing company, is owned by Roy Carlson, an active Dayton’s Bluff Community Council board member.

Budget Towing will remove any junk car or truck—located anywhere in Saint Paul—and dispose of it at no charge to the vehicle owner or the property owner where it is located. The vehicle owner will receive paperwork for a tax donation, and Roy will also make a small donation to the Community Council for each car he tows.

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They stopped to smell and look at the roses

By Jennifer Herman

Skidmore Park...? In his book The Street Where You Live, Donald Emperor calls it a ghost park, neighbors call it vacant lots, but the Dayton’s Bluff Greenspace Committee calls it fertile ground for growing a connected community. This park property on Fourth Street has remained unmarked and undeveloped since its dedication to the public in 1886. But now Skidmore Park has more than a name — it has a purpose!

Ask any gardener and you will learn that gardening can easily become an addiction and urban gardeners quickly reach the limitations of their tiny city lots. Two years ago the Greenspace Committee sought out some of these frustrated (I mean passionate!) gardeners to embark on a new community garden project in Dayton’s Bluff. The gardeners quickly caught the vision of creating a garden space not just about eradicating weeds for the sake of healthy produce, but also about reinvigorating community by creating a connected community.

Last year the City of St. Paul approved a Greenspace Committee proposal to create a community garden at Skidmore Park. A University of Minnesota Master Gardener volunteered to create a site design which is practical and beautiful. The sunny, front portion of the park will host a formal layout of raised-bed garden plots for use by avid Dayton’s Bluff growers. Large cottonwood trees shade the rear portion of the property which will be left as open space for passing a ball, having a picnic, and relaxing.

The Greenspace Committee knows that community gardening yields many fruits. Gardening together allows people to connect across barriers of age, race, and economic status and connected communities are stronger and safer. Skidmore Park Community Gardens is already creating connections.

The Mayor’s office, the City Council, and the District council are partnering with the Greenspace Committee to help get water on the site and get materials for building the raised beds. These cooperative efforts pave the way for even more productive work together in the future.

Also, two groups of teens from the community donated time and money to help committee members get the first plants in the ground on the site. These youth now have a peaceful claim on the park and some new adult connections in the community. Some of the plants in the Skidmore gardens have started to bloom but even more beautiful are the relationships which are starting to blossom as a result of the gardens.

The Greenspace Committee invites Dayton’s Bluff residents passionate about growing gardens and community to join the Skidmore Park Community Garden project. Contact the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council for the next meeting date and time! For more information email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call 651-772-2075.

Dayton’s Bluff business class

The next Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Class is starting in September 2009. This program helps start-up and young businesses on the East Side. All East Side entrepreneurs are welcome.

Class training lasts 8 weeks and includes topics such as operations management, marketing, financial management, one to one assistance with creating a successful business, and preparing a business plan, plus 8 hours of one on one time with the instructor. Those who successfully complete the course and locate their businesses in target neighborhoods are eligible for ongoing business support services.

Some examples of businesses started by people who have previously taken this course include graphics, landscaping, photography, food service, restoration of wood furniture and works of art, custom floral design for weddings and events, and exterior and interior painting. The course is sponsored by the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council and the Neighborhood Development Center. There is a small registration fee based on a sliding fee scale. The next session will start in September 2009 and class size is limited.

Please call Karin at 651-772-2075 or email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org for an application.

Block club meetings

* Wilson Avenue Block Club meets on the second Wednesday of each month at Mounds Park United Methodist Church, at Earl and Euclid, at 6:30 p.m.

* Lower Dayton’s Bluff Block Club Kickball meets on the second last Tuesday of each month at Dayton’s Bluff Rec Center at 800 Conway at 6:30 p.m. Kids and parents are welcome. Kids play, parents talk.

* Margaret Rec Center Block Club meets on the second Thursday of each month at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church at Margaret and Forest at 6:30 p.m.

* Frank/Margaret 654 Block Club meets on the last Thursday of each month at the District Council in the Neighborhood Development Center.

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Save Time and Money - Support Neighborhood Businesses

By June Bennett

You might have seen the sign that reads Sizes Matters on E. 7th St. and wondered what kind of shop it was. Sizes Matters is a tailor shop which is run by husband and wife, Nao Lou and Mee Moua, along with their thirteen year old daughter, Jacqueline, who helps in the summertime.

Nao and Mee, who immigrated to St. Paul from Laos, opened Sizes Matters in 1979. The store was originally located at Minnehaha and White Bear Avenue. In 2003 the shop moved to 851 E. 7th St. where they are currently located. Mee is very active in the business and does all the alterations herself. The shop sells some clothing, but Mee’s main focus is on her tailoring business.

Mee is active in the community and loves to see progress in the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood. Nao and Mee enjoy living in St. Paul, although they admit that the winters take some getting used to. Nao and Mee are very busy since in addition to running their store, they also have six children who they hope will someday take over their family business.

*Special: If you bring in the Sizes Matters ad in this issue and seven or more items to be tailored, you will receive $2.00 off your total and one item tailored for free.

Sizes Matters is located at 851 E 7th St., St. Paul, MN 55106. Their phone number is 651-793-4922.

Size Matters: A good fit in Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood

By June Bennett

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Dayton’s Bluff Recycling

Pick up in our area is every Tuesday. Please have your recycling at the curb by 7am.

Swede Hollow history book needs your stories

Local historians Karin and Angela DuPaul are currently working on a book that tells the story of Swede Hollow. The book is to be part of Arcadia Publishing’s Images of America series. The series presents the history of a neighborhood, town or institution through a collection of captioned photographs.

Karin has been immersed in Swede Hollow history for the past few decades, starting with the effort to have the neglected ravine (and adjacent site formerly occupied by the Theodore Hamm mansion) designated as a city park. Karin’s impetus was her move to a home across the street from the future park. Karin and Angela (mother and daughter) have literally watched the park grow and develop out their front window. Along the way they have collected bits and pieces of Swede Hollow’s long and colorful history. One thing they noticed is that this history is scattered around various memories and archives. They were happy to be given the opportunity to bring it all together in one place.

To be thorough in this effort, they need those with stories and artifacts of Swede Hollow to come forward and share the knowledge.

Each immigrant culture, born far away, also made the place uniquely their own. Can you help us tell the story of this wonderful place and its people? Call 651-776-0550 or email SwedeHollow@gmail.com.
By Steve Trimble
For those few people who couldn’t make the July 14th Women of the Bluff Walking Tour, here is an abbreviated version that you could take yourself.

Though not wealthy or well educated, she successfully ran the home.

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Keller, which occurred at 6 a.m. at her residence on Eichenwald Street, after a protracted illness of several months. Mrs. Keller was fifty-five years of age, and had lived in Paul her home since 1856… Mrs. Keller leaves eight children, five sons and three daughters. Her death will be mourned by a wide circle of loving friends. The funeral, which will be private, will occur at 2 o’clock Friday afternoon.”

[Take a right on Maple and go half way down the block.]
Women of Dayton’s Bluff Walking Tour
being a crusader in causes she believed in. In family gatherings however, she was outspoken and uncompromising in her views on woman’s suffrage and prohibition.”

262 Bates: Dayton’s Bluff Elementary School
Scores of women were the force behind most elementary school education for many decades. When they are remembered, one of the names that always comes to mind is that of Miss Laura Hand. She was the principal of what was then called Van Buren from 1893 until 1917.

Miss Hand was said to have been especially interested in art and bought many beautiful prints in Europe that she gave to the school. She bought the first Victrola to play music and an electric lantern that showed a collection of a thousand slides.

She also introduced home economics and manual training classes. According to a short history of Van Buren, “Miss Hand felt that the girls should have fine Irish Linen and beautiful silver” when they entertained their mothers at the school luncheons given by the home economics classes. The silver “was engraved with the initials V.B. The boys from the Manual Training classes made the chest to hold this linen and silver which we have always treasured and used only on special occasions.”

After Miss Hand’s death Justine Long became principal for a period that ranged from 1918 to 1930. “Holidays at the Van Buren will always be remembered by pupils and teachers who were associated with Miss Long,” the history stated. “At Thanksgiving, children brought their gifts of food. The fruits, vegetables and other foods were spread out on long tables in the spacious halls by some of the Mothers. Each of the classes came in turn to see this interesting Thanksgiving display and stood around the bountiful tables and on the stairway singing beautiful autumn songs.”

“At Christmas time, the children went to the markets and came back laden with branches of pine and spruce. The older pupils made wreaths and one was hung in every window. The railings of stairways were trimmed with garlands of evergreen, one of the lower halls there was an enormous spruce tree where children would gather to sing the lovely Christmas carols and read stories.”

[Continue on Bates, take a right at East Third Street. Go down to Bates and take a left]

267 Maria Avenue: The Scheffer House
The Scheffer family lived in this house in the early years of the Twentieth Century. Several of the daughters were cultural workers in the neighborhood. Ilma Scheffer and her sister were dancing teachers who gave lessons at their residence at various local sites, such as the Dayton’s Bluff Commercial Club. Later on Ilma became well known for her downtown restaurant, appropriately dubbed “Cafe Ilma.”

[Keep going on Maria]

281 Maria Avenue: Children’s Safety Center
Advocates for women and children who have experienced domestic violence were behind the transformation of the old Mounds Park State Bank into a Children’s Safety Center. It is intended as a safe place for children whose abusive parent have a court-ordered right to visitation can meet them in a supervised setting.

Midway down the block, just beyond the Eagle’s Club, take a left into what appears to be an alley. It was actually platted out as Dayton Place and leads to the site of the Maria Dayton house

Dayton Place and Mounds Blvd: Site of Maria Dayton Home
When you get to the empty lot at the edge of the bluff, you will be standing on the site of Maria Dayton’s home. Maria Bates married Lyman Dayton back East and they arrived in Minnesota in 1849. Maria is first mentioned in the records as taking care of people ill with cholera who arrived with them on their steamship.

The Dayton’s built their “suburban residence” above today’s Mounds Boulevard between Conway and Third in 1854. When the land was platted, Maria and Bates streets were named after her. Maria was a major figure in the fledgling First Baptist Church. Lyman died in the early 1860’s and she soon married her gardener, a man around two decades younger, and moved to Dayton, Minnesota. Presumably happy, at least into her late eighties. Next time you walk or drive down Maria or Bates Avenues, remember they are named after this pioneer woman.

[Return to Maria, cross Third Street. You will go to East Fourth]

308-310 Maria Avenue: Dayton’s Bluff Children’s Garden
Under the leadership of Ruth Murphy, then director of the Community Design Center launched a program to teach community children about food. This small lot is one of several vegetable gardens spread throughout the area that show girls and boys how to grow their own food. They also learn about cooking, nutrition and marketing their produce.

The tour is far from over but that’s all the room we have this month. The Women of Dayton’s Bluff Walking Tour will conclude next month.

National Night Out is Tuesday August 4th See page 1 for a list of events in Dayton’s Bluff

Swede Hollow Plain Air Art Fest – Call for artists
Friends of Swede Hollow (FOSH) is seeking artists of all kinds to participate in the Swede Hollow Plain Air Art Fest. The Fest will start at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2009 in Swede Hollow Park.

This event will give park visitors an opportunity to see artists at work in the open-air setting of Swede Hollow, which is especially lovely in autumn. Children are welcome and chalk will be provided for them to draw Swede Hollow scenes of their own along the paved paths.

Artists are encouraged to donate their work to FOSH to help raise support for their efforts to improve the park. FOSH is a nonprofit organization that works on Swede Hollow issues, plantings, cleanups, education, history tours, and events. For more information call 651-776-0550 or email SwedeHollow@gmail.com.

Watch the Glow of the Setting Sun
Hear stories and songs from former Swede Hollow residents and Hamm’s Brewery employees at the annual “Watch the Glow of the Setting Sun on the Red Brick Brewery” event hosted by Friends of Swede Hollow (FOSH).

The event will start at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 25 and everyone is welcome to attend. Meet at the Henge in Swede Hollow Park near the Dewry Lane and Beaumont entrance to watch the setting sun.

After the sun sets, the evening cookout and socializing begins. Former Swede Hollow residents and Hamm’s employees share memories of the good old days living in the Hollow and working in the brewery. Last year Joe Sanchelli and his daughter Nancy entertained everyone with Italian songs and stories about life in the Hollow.

FOSH is a nonprofit organization that works on Swede Hollow issues, plantings, cleanups, education, history tours, and events. For more information email SwedeHollow@gmail.com or call 651-776-0550.

Please don’t litter!
Twin Cities Academy and High School move to Dayton’s Bluff

Twin Cities Academy (TCA) and Twin Cities Academy High School (TCAHS), tuition-free college preparatory charter middle and high schools, are delighted to join the Dayton’s Bluff community. They have recently moved to the former Trinity Catholic School building at 835 East 5th Street.

The new location is twice the size of their previous building and gives the school’s room to continue their growth. The added space allows them to add science and language labs and increase enrollment. Between the middle school and the high school, targeted enrollment is 525 students.

Twin Cities Academy, which is celebrating their 10-year anniversary this year, opened with grades 6-8 in the former St. James School building southwest of downtown St. Paul and is experiencing its third move due to success and growth. The Academy added the high school (TCAHS) in 2006, beginning with grades 9-10, and just graduated their first class in 2009. The tuition-free charter school programs are sponsored by St. Paul Public Schools.

Twin Cities Academy is committed to developing productive citizens through rigorous academic rigor and building character in partnership with families and the community. Student achievement typically surpasses the state and district averages year after year. TCA was proud to make AYP in 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008 and is recognized as a Five Star School by the State of Minnesota.

The average class size at Twin Cities Academy is 24 students in the middle school and 22 students in the high school.

Liz Wynne, principal, says the Academy enrollment will top out at 225 students for the middle school and 300 for the high school. “We believe that in order to grow, your student you have to know your student,” she said. “No one falls through the cracks here.”

Wynne says “We like to think we’re delivering a quality product that includes discipline in academics and discipline in behavior. It’s a great choice for students who want to learn, work hard and be challenged. We hold all our stakeholders accountable.”

Accountability at Twin Cities Academy includes parent and student contracts, volunteer requirements for students and families, high expectations and a high work ethic. All students are expected to make a contribution to the community.

Twin Cities Academy and Twin Cities Academy High School are uniform schools; middle school students wear khaki or navy pants or skirts and navy or white polo shirts, high school students wear black or khaki pants or skirts and maroon, green, or white polo shirts.

Twin Cities Academy is enrolling students for August 2009. Middle school open house dates are Saturday July 18 at 10:00 a.m. and Thursday July 23 at 7:00 p.m. High school open house dates are Saturday July 18 at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday July 28 at 7:00 p.m. and Thursday August 20 at 7:00 p.m. For more information please call 651-205-4977 or visit their website at www.tca.k12.mn.us.

Twin Cities Academy looks forward to playing an active role in the Dayton’s Bluff community.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church takes a “Leap of Faith” with new school

The doors of East St. Paul Lutheran School closed on Friday, June 5th, but Bethlehem Lutheran Church on the East Side has an exciting new and unique opportunity. One of the three current association churches, Bethlehem Lutheran Church voted on May 17th to expand JOY Preschool & Child Care to JOY Academy.

One church member termed the voters’ decision as “a leap of faith.” Over the last fifty years, Bethlehem has invested millions of dollars in private education. Pastor Raddatz, pastor at Bethlehem, expressed, “We are not here to start something new, but to expand JOY Preschool & Child Care, which rightfully has earned a reputation on the East Side as a place for parents and children to excel and reach new heights.

We are proud to build upon the fine work of Carol Finke, the director and a teacher of the preschool, and bring this tradition and excellence to children in grades K-3.

JOY Preschool and Child Care started in 1971 to provide Christian education to Bethlehem children as well as to children in Dayton’s Bluff and the entire East Side. Over the last four months, the preschool has increased its numbers dramatically.

JOY Academy will encompass Preschool and Child Care for the 2009-2010 school year and involve 28 students from K-3rd grade. 2) JOY Academy is admitting only 28 students from K-3rd grade. 2) Staff second to none. Each teacher must be able to work with a classical curriculum, motivate students at an individual pace, be proficient in a testing system that is administered before and after an intensive screening and interview process. Teachers and aides will provide valuable one-on-one help, as well as expertise in the area of art. 6) Strong partnership between students, teachers, parents, and school board. The parent group will be strong, organized, and active in relationships with the board and teaching staff. Parents will be asked to do little fundraising. The teachers will provide activities to bring parents together throughout the year for fellowship and listening sessions. Fun activities will be offered for the parents and children.

JOY Academy will be enrolling students as of May 31st. The staff will be put in place after an intensive screening and interview process. The facility will be transformed soon into classrooms in the installation of all the technology.

Many people cannot believe that an expanding school with a limited number of openings can charge so little.

The tuition for a kindergartner is $2000.00, while for a child in 1st - 3rd grade it is $2,250.00. The registration fee per student is $150.00. The tuition for a kindergartner is at least 75 percent less than an all day preschool. Further, if parents spread their payments out over 12 months, it is $39.00/week for a kindergartner and $43.00/week for a student in grades 1-3.

The organizers of JOY Academy are members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church who are business people as well as former and current teachers. What is new is for future students of JOY Academy and the community for Bethlehem to provide classrooms and $30,000.00 for support. Generous individuals and businesses are planning on contributing support as well. This looks to be at heart a community school on the East Side.

If you would like to know more, you may set up a visit by calling Pastor Raddatz at (651) 925-6125. He is ready and willing to meet with parents and accept enrollment forms.

By Chelsea Starr

In June, the kids at the Dayton’s Bluff and Margaret Recreation Centers had a surprise guest speaker. But “Champtown” Harmony joined the kids at the recreation centers to discuss his history with gangs, his experiences in the music industry, and his childhood (in which he spent a lot of time at the recreation centers).

Champ, a veteran Detroit musician, runs his own independent record label, Straight Jacket Records. Champ has worked with several of hip hop’s biggest stars, including Eminem, Ice T, Public Enemy, Kid Rock and Uncle Cracker (all who’ve earned gold and platinum records for their work).

Champ has also written songs on Rev Run’s solo album Distortion and is currently hosting Kid Rock’s Rock and Roll Revival Tour and he is the official Cabo Wabo Radio DJ, owned by Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Sammy Hagar. Champ is currently on board at the Institute of Production and Recording in Artist and Industry Relations.

Champ’s Detroit gangland history and his success in the music industry through better judgment, are a wonderful example to children in these programs. He has recently taken his ability to step in and guide children with similar backgrounds to his own very seriously. The recent visits discussed opportunities in the music industry, the importance of education, and what it really means to be a man.

I talked with Champ regarding his visits and he said not only was he grateful to be hosted by the recreation centers, the children were wonderful and he hopes to visit again in the future.

“Champtown” visits Dayton’s Bluff

Now Enrolling Fall 2009

By Chelsea Starr

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Enjoy the last of summer activities!

Don’t let transportation keep the kids from enjoying the many activities on the East Side. The Circulator is designed to safely and effectively transport youth in Dayton’s Bluff and Payne Phalen to and from youth programming.

Any registered youth age 7-18 can ride. A parent or guardian must complete and sign a registration form for each youth wishing to ride the Circulator.

The summer Circulator route operates through August 28, Monday–Friday, 10am–6pm. The Dayton’s Bluff schedule is shown at the right. Pick up a full schedule, including Payne Phalen, at your rec center.

The East Side Circulators are organized through the East Side Learning Collaborative, with support from the Minnesota Department of Education After School Community Learning program.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

This year’s National Night Out (NNO) is on Tuesday, August 4. This is a chance for our neighborhoods to take back the neighborhood and show that community is stronger than crime! Look for a listing of NNO events in Dayton’s Bluff in this paper.

By Meg Gronau

It takes a village to raise a child — but are you in search of your village? Maybe you wish your young children had more opportunities to play with other kids. Or maybe you need some other parents to talk to — about the peculiar feeding-growing-issues of babies and toddlers; about education and development of youngsters; about simply being a parent in this crazy world.

Maybe you’ve heard about the long-term benefits of a high-quality preschool program (such as ECFE) is one approach to making the difference in the lives of the children in our community. We CAN make the difference in the economic situation of our nation.

Studies have shown that kids from impoverished families are already at a disadvantage before they enter kindergarten. Before kindergarten!! This means these kids are not necessarily falling behind in the middle-school minefield, or getting pulled astray in the high school, but long, long before that. Disadvantaged children are missing many of the enriching experiences that many people assume go hand-in-hand with childhood.

According to a 2002 report by the Economic Policy Institute, the average kindergartner in the lowest fifth of low-income families don’t fit into your lifestyle or your budget.

Enter ECFE: Early Childhood Family Education, a Minnesota program run by the public schools, designed for all families with at least one child age 5 or under. ECFE has sites all over the city of Saint Paul. It’s the parents’ job to prepare their children...” That’s important. Because the teachers at ECFE believe that? “...helping all parents prepare their children for kindergarten.

If you need more information before then, you may call the main St. Paul ECFE office at (651) 793-5410, or the Dayton’s Bluff ECFE site at (651) 293-5343. The deadline to apply for Fall 2009 classes is August 19, but after that date enrollment does continue throughout the school year as places become available in classes.

and open house will be Wednesday, September 9 from 10:00 AM-12:00 noon and from 4:00-7:30 PM.

By Meg Gronau

Find your “village” at ECFE - Register now for Fall 2009 classes

ECFE works to strengthen its families. ECFE’s goal is to enhance the ability of all parents to provide the best possible environment for their child’s learning and growth. Become a part of ECFE.

The 2009-10 brochure will be in the mail after August 1, and copies will also be available in all local rec centers and libraries. The St. Paul ECFE website, ecfe.spps.org, will also have the new information posted after Augus

Mounds Park

School is merely a tool to help children develop and grow into socially-conscious, intellectually-curious citizens of our world. ECFE is based on the idea that parents are the first and best educators of children.

Much of a child’s personality and temperament is set by the time a child is three years old. And who’s responsible for that child for that time frame? The family: the parents, grandparents, and other caregivers in a child’s life.

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A 21st Century Education - Part 2

By Mary Ann Cogelow

Every child is a miracle. Normally developing children are so smart that they tempt us to imagine that if we just start pouring information in sooner, we will create super students. We forget that the human brain has its own timetables which have developed over the whole length of human history. Our experience with bumping the first grade curriculum down into kindergarten and instituting other kinds of academic “acceleration” in our collective panic when the USSR beat us into space with Sputnik, should have taught us that earlier is not necessarily better.

Moreover, irony of ironies, the best evidence argues that while we are teaching to the test, we are ignoring data that even those cognitive abilities which are enormous, but not paramount, importance, are more fully mastered when they are taught in broader contexts. The same list of mediocrities which brings a constant stream of information that the inadequacies of NCLB means a similarly constant stream of information that insists that broadening the scope of education not only helps children develop life-long skills, but enhances their mastery of “the basics” – reading, writing, ‘rithmetic.

Teaching with the Brain in Mind, Jensen says, “Two rules come from the field of brain research and enrichment. One is to eliminate threat, and the other is to enrich like crazy.” His detailed list of enrichments and rejections is a reasonable preface to a comprehensive list of educational opportunities, whose broad categories include physical activity, field trips, music, art, games, and real-world experiences. One which we currently need to keep under attack is “frills,” “too expensive,” or “non-essential.”

On her web site, Senator Kloubuchar asserts that educators need to be accountable. I agree absolutely. But when we are thinking about educational accountability let’s think of some other areas – in the USA and internationally – where greater accountability would surely have been useful: Detroit, Wall Street, housing lenders, banking, commerce and government. I agree absolutely. But accountability would surely have been useful: Detroit, Wall Street, housing lenders, banking, commerce and government.

The Council is most effective when its elections get the attention of a large segment of the community, and its board is made up of concerned citizens from all segments of our diverse and dynamic community. Get involved, make a difference, call and ask how you can get involved in improving your community. You are needed.

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

Fun family activities

During the hot days of August, wouldn’t a cool treat be satisfying? Come gather for an Ice Cream Social at the Mounds Park United Methodist Church on Saturday, August 8 from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Chemists-in-the-Library is a volunteer group of chemists who come to libraries each month to share hands-on chemistry activities with kids of all ages. The group, sponsored by the Minnesota Section of the American Chemical Society, consists of chemists with academic or industrial careers and college/university students.

This free two-hour program, held on Saturdays, consists of five to seven simple activities introducing visitors to the wonders and excitement of chemistry. The activities are geared for kids 7-12 years, but young children with their parents, teens and adults enjoy themselves also. Since October 2004, we have visited libraries monthly in St. Paul and Minneapolis, most locations more than once.

Some of our activities include making play putty, finding vitamin C in beverages, writing magic messages, analyzing candy chemicals and making a UV light-detecting bracelet.

Chemists in the Library

Dayton’s Bluff Library at 645 East 7th Street is hosting Chemists-in-the-Library on Saturday, August 8 from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Chemists-in-the-Library is a volunteer group of chemists who come to libraries each month to share hands-on chemistry activities with kids of all ages.

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Continued from page 1

Community Council

and business owners in the community, which focuses on the whole community and seeks to develop and/or support improvement efforts for the whole community. It is the place where you will be heard, and where you can make a difference, about what is happening (or needs to happen) in Dayton’s Bluff.

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